

Old Spring Branch Bugler

December 2023 * diciembre 2023

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Fourth Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, December 28: JUNK WASTE

Thursday, January 25: TREE WASTE

Recolección de Basura Pesada

Cuarto jueves del mes (menos en días feriados)

jueves, 28 de diciembre: <u>Basura Chatarra</u>

jueves, 25 de enero: Desechos Verdes

PLEASE REMEMBER:

OLD SPRING BRANCH IS A DEED-RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.

RECUERDE OUE OLD SPRING BRANCH ES UNA COMUNIDAD BAJO RESTRICCIONES.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jo Lightsey

I want to remind Old Spring Branch (OSB) residents that the neighborhood holiday decorated homes will be judged during the week of **December 17-22.** Everyone is invited to be a judge. See page 2 for more information.

It has been an interesting year. We welcome any new residents to OSB, and hope that they are an asset to our community. Here's hoping ALL residents, old and new, will be aware of the City of Houston Ordinances (Codes) and the Deed Restrictions that guide their subdivision. Questions that pertain to City Ordinances can be addressed to 3-1-1. Deed Restriction copies can be obtained from OSBCA by calling 713-681-0560 and leaving your name and phone number. Copies are also posted on our website: OldSpringBranch.org

The January 2024 Bugler issue will have the Solid Waste Dept. schedule and "Important Phone Numbers." The January Bugler will be a HARD COPY and will be delivered to ALL our OSB residents.

Folks, as your President, I urge every OSB resident to put forth a special effort to support our Association, both physically and financially. BE AN ASSET TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 12. Hope you choose to be there.

OSBCA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 7 – 8 p.m.

Mendenhall Civic Center 1414 Wirt Rd.





OSBCA 2023 HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

HOLIDAY PARTY

Our OSBCA Holiday Party has been canceled again this year. We hope to be able to host the party next year, 2024.

OSBCA always enjoys having the neighborhood participate in the annual Holiday Decorating Contest...

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

OSBCA members will be judging the decorated homes in the neighborhood during the week of December 16-22. This year, the top six (6) homes, overall, will be listed.

The following are some things to keep in mind for the judging:

- It is important that you have your lights on every night of the judging week.
- Your HOUSE ADDRESS NUMBER MUST BE VISIBLE FROM THE STREET. If your address number cannot be read, your home cannot be listed in the judging.

There is no right or wrong, however, there must be a house number visible from the street. Otherwise, there are no set guidelines.

Judging is done on personal preference. Anyone can be a judge. Contact Secretary Linda Whatley, 713-681-0560, if you intend to judge. When you have made your six top selections, turn your vote in by calling or sending it via text, or send via e-mail to whatleylm@gmail.com.

The deadline for turning in your top six list is Friday, December 22, 2023.

SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Christmas will be here before you know it and we hope everyone has a great and safe holiday. Porch thefts and thefts from motor vehicles are a big concern in the month of December and so is celebratory gunfire and fireworks which are both illegal in Houston. Please remember what goes up must come down! Stray bullets can kill. So, if you hear gunfire, please call 911 or notify Crime Stoppers anonymously at 713-222-TIPS. If you are caught using fireworks, you can be fined between \$500 to \$2,000 per firework – even if your kids are the ones popping them.

Be aware of your surroundings! Stay alert, be diligent and report any incidents that you see or hear. If the police department is not aware of anything going on in our neighborhood, they will not patrol our area. You can call the non-emergency number at 713-884-3131. If it is life-threatening situation, please call 911!

We will be reporting a total of **29.75 patrol hours** for the month of November. As always, I want to thank our Citizens on Patrol (CP) volunteers for patrolling our area whenever possible. I do believe we make a difference. We are always looking for volunteers to join our CP group. If you are interested, feel free to contact Virginia at 832-748-8088, please leave a message. We would love to have you.

MEMBERSHIP – GIVE THE GIFT OF COMMUNITY

The holiday season is upon us. As you consider what gifts to give your family and friends, consider giving your neighbor the gift of membership.

Outside of Counter Point and Woodvine, who have 12 and 14 members respectively, the likelihood of your neighbor (or you) being a member OSBCA is pretty low.

So, this holiday season, consider giving your household the gift of supporting the OSBCA by renewing or finally becoming a member. And we invite you to give your neighbor a gift this holiday season too by covering their membership.

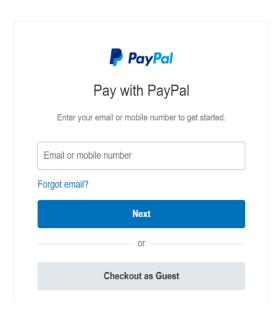
A membership of \$25 (or \$12.50 if you are on a fixed income or a senior) helps support the year-long efforts by your OSBCA. Among the benefits our neighborhood receives from OSBCA are Citizens on Patrol, quarterly membership meetings, efforts to reinforce Deed Restrictions, advocacy with local representatives, the monthly newsletter, among others. And with more paid members and support, the more our Civic Association can do!

	2023-2024 Membership (50 total)											
Amelia	Antoine	Cedel	Counter Point	Hammerly	Harland	Jacquelyn	Johanna	Silverbonnet	Thonig	Todd	Turquoise	Woodvine
1	2	3	12	2	3	1	3	0	3	1	3	14
2022-2023 Membership (45 total)												
0	3	2	7	2	4	1	1	1	5	2	2	15

Reminder: Regular and business membership is \$25 a year and membership for seniors and those living on a fixed income is \$12.50.

You can pay through PayPal (and make sure to include your address) or drop off your membership at one of our meetings or mail it in.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR OSBCA MEMBERSHIP? IF YOU HAVEN'T, PAY ONLINE!



Step one:

Visit OldSpringBranch.org and click on "Membership" on the main menu.

Step two:

Select the type of membership you fall under and then click the button under it that says "Pay with PayPal".

Step three:

If you don't currently have a PayPal account, you can log on using "Checkout as Guest"

Step four:

Fill out the information so you can make the payment.

CRIME REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2023

Virginia Lehman

Listed below are the incidents reported in our area for November 1-30, 2023.

- One (1) report of Aggravated Assault: November 24th, 6PM, 1900 Block of Thonig.
- Five (5) reports of Simple Assault: November 12th, 1AM, 2000 Block of Antoine Dr., November 25th, 12PM, 2000 Block of Thonig; November 26th, 10PM, 7600 Block of Hammerly; November 26th, 7PM, 7700 Block of Long Point and November 27th, 12PM, 2000 Block of Johanna.
- Two (2) reports of Intimidation: November 5th, 3PM, 7800 Block of Long Point and November 13th, 7PM, 7600 Block of Amelia.
- Two (2) reports of Vandalism, Destruction, Damage: November 16th, 11AM, 1900 Block of Jacquelyn and November 24th, 1AM, 7500 Block of Long Point
- Two (2) reports of Breaking & Entering: November 17th, 9PM, 7500 Block of Long Point and November 26th, 10PM, 7600 Block of Hammerly.
- Three (3) report of Theft from Vehicle: November 4th, 12AM, 7500 Block of Long Point;
 November 4th, 10AM, 7400 Block of Long Point and November 15th, 10AM, 2000 Block of Johanna
- Three (3) reports of Drug, Narcotic Violations: November 9th, 12AM, 1900 Block of Antoine; November 14th, 1AM, 7400 Block of Hammerly and November 29th, 6PM, 7500 Block of Long Point.
- Three (3) reports of Theft (shoplifting): November 1st, 11AM, 7900 Block of Long Point; November 11th, 6PM, 7900 Block of Long Point and November 14th, 8PM, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- Three (3) reports of All Other Crimes: November 16th, 11AM, 1900 Block of Jacquelyn (Trespass of Real Property); November 17th, 7PM, 1900 Block of Woodvine (Other) and November 24th, 9PM, 1900 Block of Woodvine (Weapon Law Violations).

Please note that the above information was gathered from the <u>Spot Crime on the Houston Police Dept</u> website.

You can file a police report online if you have access to a valid, functioning e-mail address and you are the actual victim of the theft, loss or criminal mischief (not a witness, relative, friend, etc.) Website is: houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm

On behalf of the OSBCA Board of Directors & Committee Chairs Wishing you and yours a Joyous Holiday Season E Wonderful New Year!

BEAUTIFICATION

Jo Lightsey

It is important that OSB residents continue to follow City Codes and Deed Restrictions. If you still have violations, PLEASE, get into compliance before an official shows up or you receive a letter from the OSBCA (Old Spring Branch Civic Association).

The newly built housing complex at 1923-1927 Jacquelyn Dr. are in violation of the City of Houston Ordinance concerning garbage bins and recycle bins being left on the street all the time, before and after collection. The housing complex even has named its own street, "Jacquelyn Oaks," with street addressed being in the 7300's. I do not know if this complex is made up of townhomes, duplexes or apartments? WHO IS IN CHARGE AT THIS ADDRESS? I have been working with District A to eliminate the problem.

Reminder to residents, PLEASE place your recycling bins and garbage containers three to four (3'-4') feet apart on collection day. Solid Waste JAWS need the space for successfully picking up and emptying the containers and to AVOID spillage. Sack all garbage. Do NOT sack recycling. Remove containers from the street the same day as collection. Store garbage and recycling bins out of sight. It is a City of Houston Ordinance that all bins be stored out of sight from the street.

Please take the time to keep your yard, street and ditches clear of litter.

DECEMBER 9 RUNOFF ELECTION

The City of Houston, Texas, will conduct a Runoff Election on Saturday, December 9, 2023, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., at which there will be elected the following officers of the City of Houston:

Mayor	Sheila Jackson Lee	John Whitmire
Controller	Chris Hollins	Orlando Sanchez
City Council, District D	Carolyn Evans-Shabazz	Travis McGee
City Council, District G	Tony Buzbee	Mary Nan Huffman
City Council, District H	Mario Castillo	Cynthia Reyes Revilla
City Council, At-Large #1	Melanie Miles	Julian Ramirez
City Council, At-Large #2	Willie Davis	Nick Hellyar
City Council, At-Large #3	Richard Cantu	Twila Carter
City Council, At-Large #4	Roy Morales	Letitia Plummer

Nearest Early Voting location:

Trini Mendenhall Community Center – Room 106 1414 Wirt Road

- Monday, December 4, 2023 -- 7AM 7PM
- Tuesday, December 5, 2023 -- 7AM 7PM

Election Day voting location:

Treasure Forest Elementary – Multipurpose Room S107 7635 Amelia Road

• December 9, 2023 -- 7AM - 7PM

For more information about the elections, visit https://www.harrisvotes.com/.

YARDS OF THE MONTH – RESUME IN THE SPRING

Jo Lightsey

This time of the year, we may be still chasing the mower. Most yards are struggling to revive and survive after the months of drought. Yards of the Month was canceled two months. So sad. ANYWAY...

Now is the time to prune those overgrown shrubs, doctor your yards for bugs and brown spots. Mulch those leaves if possible. I encourage you to **use City of Houston approved bags for your yard cuttings and bundle/tie the small branches for Friday pick up.** Contact 3-1-1 if they are not collected.

Plan your landscaping for 2024. Spring will be here before we know it! I will send the criteria for Yards of the Month in the February or March Bugler.

REMEMBER TO TAKE DOWN YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS whenever the tradition of the season ends for your family.

LANDSCAPING

Nino Roman

Before your lawn goes dormant, I would recommend you do the following:

- 1) Reduce water amount and frequency. (Lucky that we have had rain.)
- 2) Water after the sun rises (8 9 a.m.).
- 3) Do a fall fertilization with either an organic or synthetic fertilizer (8-12-16). Normally hardware stores will have what you need. Water in the fertilizer.
- 4) Mow any winter weeds that come up.
- 5) Give yourself a break from mowing your lawn.

Thank you, LMC, for maintaining our esplanades.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Deadline: Thursday, December 28, 2023

Got ideas or suggestions? Send them to sybilsanchez@yahoo.com, Subject line: OSBCA

The Old Spring Branch Civic Association publishes the Old Spring Branch Bugler monthly. OSB serves the area between Wirt & Antoine, north of Long Point and southwest of Todd. Material in this publication may not be reproduced without permission from the OSBCA communications committee. Due to time and space not all letters or articles may appear. Any correspondence must include your name and address (which may be withheld upon request). Please print or type any submissions. For advertising information or to submit articles, mail to: OSBCA Bugler; P. O. Box 55172, Houston Texas 77255-5172



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Old Spring Branch Civic Association 2023 – 2024 Membership Form Name: Address: E-mail Phone: Cell: Mailing Address: I am interested in the following committee(s): □ Beautification □ Citizens on Patrol □ Communications □ Deed Restrictions □ Landscaping □ Membership □ Social □ Special Events **Annual Dues/Membership Types:** □ \$25.00 Property Represented □ \$12.50 Senior Citizens (62+) /Fixed Income Business/Non-resident □ \$25.00 □ New Application \square Renewal **Membership Due Amount:** Committee **Donation Amount:** Total Payment: In applying for renewal or new membership, I agree to pay dues and to support my civic association to achieve a better neighborhood. Signature: Date:

Membership dues are good for 5-1-23 through 4-30-24.

Bring form and payment to the next meeting or mail to: Old Spring Branch Civic Association P. O. Box 55172 Houston, TX 77255-5172

Checks payable to Old Spring Branch Civic Association or OSBCA.

Asociación Cívica de Old Spring Branch Formulario de Membrecía 2023 – 2024 Nombre: Dirección: Correo Electrónico: Dirección de correspondencia: Estoy interesado en los siguientes comités: □ Embellecimiento □ Vigilancia de la Vecindad □ Comunicaciones ☐ Restricciones de las Propiedades □ Jardinería □ Membrecía □ Social □ Eventos Especiales Cuota Anual/Tipo de Membrecía: □ \$25.00 Propiedad Representada □ \$12.50 Tercera Edad (62+) /Bajos Ingresos □ \$25.00 Negocio/No resident □ Nuevo Miembro □ Renovando Cantidad de la Cuota Anual: Comité Cantidad de la Donación: Pago Total: Al solicitar membrecía nueva o al renovar, está de acuerdo a pagar su cuota y apoyar a su asociación cívica a obtener una vecindad mejor. Firma: Fecha: Cuota de membrecía válida del 1-5-23 hasta 30-4-24. Traiga el formulario y pago a la siguiente reunión o puede mandarlo por correo a: Old Spring Branch Civic Association P. O. Box 55172

Houston, TX 77255-5172

Cheque a nombre de Old Spring Branch Civic Association o OSBCA.



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SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET CUTS PROPOSAL, INCLUDING CLOSING TREASURE FOREST ELEMENTARY & SKY (SBISD, KIPP & YES PREP) PARTNERSHIP

In recent weeks, the SBISD Board of Trustees met over a series of meetings to review the first phase of budget considerations to address the district's \$35 million budget shortfall for the 2024-25 school year.

To watch both of these board meetings, <u>click here</u>. On Monday, December 11, the SBISD Board will be meeting to vote on the closure of Treasure Forest Elementary and Panda Path School for Early Learning. It is also expected that the board will vote on the closure of the SKY Partnership and restructuring of the SPIRAL gifted & talented program.

For more details on the pending proposed budget cuts, read below:

Proposed budget cuts in Phase 1:

- School Closure of Treasure Forest Elementary
 - o Close Treasure Forest Elementary and relocate students to Housman and Ridgecrest elementaries to maximize facility usage, staffing and programs.
- Close Panda Path School for Early Learning
 - Discontinue the lease for the Panda Path School for Early Learning and adjust boundaries for students to attend Lion Lane and open 1-2 Pre-K classrooms at Hollibrook Elementary.
 - o Balance enrollment across the district at Pre-K Schools for Early Learning.
- Pause Bond Programs for Sherwood, Spring Shadows, Thornwood and Terrace Elementary schools -PASSED-
- Increase High School Student-Teacher Ratios -PASSED-
- Align High School Schedules to seven-period schedule -PASSED-
- Pre-K Tuition Increase -PASSED-

Proposed budget cuts in Phase 2:

- Gifted and Talented Programming beginning with the 2024-25 school year
 - Restructure Elementary Gifted and Talented SPIRAL Programming to be delivered by SPIRAL teachers at home elementary campuses
 - o Expand enrollment at Spring Branch Academic Institute (SBAI)
- Choice Programming beginning with the 2024-25 school year
 - Discontinue the SKY Partnership
 - o Expand enrollment at Westchester Academy for International Studies (WAIS)
 - Expand enrollment at Cornerstone Academy
 - o Continue Dual Language programming

For more information about the budget cuts Spring Branch ISD is making, you can visit https://www.springbranchisd.com/about/board-of-trustees/legislature/closing-the-2024-25-budget-gap

We will also share information about upcoming SBISD board meetings on our OSBCA Facebook page.

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

DECEMBER 2023 DICIEMBRE 2023						
Sunday domingo	Monday lunes	Tuesday martes	Wednesday miércoles	Thursday jueves	Friday viernes	Saturday sábado
3 Early Votin	4 ang Runoff Election	5	6	7	8	9 Runoff Elections
10	11	12 OSBCA Mtg.	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 PIP, 7p	20	21	22	23 May put out Heavy Trash * Puede sacar basura pesada
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28 HEAVY TRASH: JUNK	29	30
31	1 New Year	2	3	4	5	6
Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings – Third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Faith Center Chapel,						

8009 Long Point.

<u>Bc</u>	DARD OF DIRECTORS	COMMITTEE CHAIRS			
	Officers		Advertising: Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634		
President: Vice President: Secretary:	Jo Lightsey Loretta Nalley Linda Whatley	713-681-0560 832-868-8751 713-681-0560	Beautification: Jo Lightsey, 713-681-0560 Citizens on Patrol (COP):		
Treasurer:	Virginia Lehman	832-748-8088	Virginia Lehman, 832-748-8088 Communications:		
STRI Antoine:	EET REPRESENTATIVE Vacant	S	Sybil Sánchez, 832-722-2331 Lorna Gast, Newsletter mail out		
Counter Point & Turquoise:	Anonymous		Deed Restrictions: Committee of Five Contact: 713-681-0560		
Harland & Todd: Jacquelyn/ E. Hammerly:	Mike McGeehon	713-922-0116	In Touch: Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634		
Johanna: Silverbonnet, Cedel & W. Hammerly:	Roman Nunez Eric Schmidt	281-840-1521	Landscaping: Nino Roman, 832-877-4701 Membership:		
Thonig: Woodvine:	Sybil Sanchez Rosario Machorro	832-722-2331 713-391-6355	Loretta Nalley, 832-868-8751 Social:Vacant		